

WAVES REVIEWED BY COMMDR. M'AFEE

Three-Day Celebration of First
Birthday of Organization
Is Opened by Director

3 SAILORS FAINT IN HEAT

But Girls Keep Ranks at Floyd
Bennett Field Ceremony—
Hospital Is Visited

Opening a three-day celebration of the first anniversary of the Waves, Lieut. Commdr. Mildred H. McAfee, director of the Women's Reserve, told 2,000 men and women personnel yesterday at the Naval Air Station, Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, that Waves are grateful to Congress for permitting them to serve in the Navy and pledged continued aid in the future.

"A year ago today we were a little fearful lest the men of the service would think that we were a little sissy," Commander McAfee declared. "We are grateful that you let us come aboard. It's not merely that the Navy really needs us—but that it permitted us to do something we hope will help the men of the Navy do the job people expect them to do."

The Commander, who said that the visit to Floyd Bennett Field was her first inspection tour of a naval air station, opened a series of anniversary ceremonies in the Third Naval District that will be concluded tomorrow morning when Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt will review a special Wave parade at the Hunter College Training Station, the Bronx.

Waves, sailors, Navy pilots and ground crews dressed in white uniforms and marines wearing khaki lined up on the apron of the field yesterday for inspection by Miss McAfee. The uniformed ranks were flanked on both sides by gray and silver amphibian, fighter, scout, bomber and transport planes.

Before Commander McAfee arrived, three of the sailors, who had been standing in the hot sun with the rest of the detachment, fainted. The one hundred Waves in line withstood the heat.

Awards Purple Heart Medal

Before introducing Miss McAfee, Capt. Newton H. White Jr. (retired) USN, commanding officer of the station, presented the Purple Heart Medal to Chief Warrant Officer David H. Ellsworth, chief photographer of the field. Officer Ellsworth was wounded in the sinking of the carrier Hornet last fall. His wife and 4-year-old son, Richard, came from Portsmouth, Va., to attend the ceremony.

Accompanied by Captain White,

Capt. David C. Patterson, USNR, Personnel Officer representing the commandant of the Third Naval District, Miss McAfee and her Wave aides inspected personnel at attention on the field, including a contingent of 100 Waves.

During her tour Commander McAfee saw some of the 140 Waves stationed at the field perform a few of their 115 jobs there. She watched them at work in the control tower, where radio landing and take-off instructions are cleared, in the coding room, and in the communications office. In the coding room, the radio control department and the teletype section she saw women executing their duties alongside of men at the radio controls and switchboards.

While in the hangars she saw grease-smeared Waves in blue denim cover-alls repair cowlings and plane equipment. In the parachute-rigging room she observed the process of "chute" folding.

Questioned on Overseas Service

When questioned on the possibility of Waves serving overseas, Commander McAfee said that it was up to Congress.

After luncheon Commander McAfee visited the Naval Hospital at St. Albans, Queens, where 104 Waves train and work in the care of casualty cases from battle areas. After reviewing Navy medical officers and nurses, sailors and Waves, she awarded a Purple Heart to Marine Corp. Anthony Casamento of 26 East 105th Street, New York, who was wounded in action at Guadalcanal.

Capt. L. L. Pratt (Medical Corps), USN, commanding officer

at the hospital, presented a Purple Heart Medal to another Guadalcanal veteran, Ensign W. H. Lamson of Waveland, Ind., who was wounded when his ship, the Cushing was sunk Friday, Nov. 13, 1942.

Takes Part in Broadcast

After inspecting Wave barracks and classes, Commander McAfee returned to Manhattan, where she participated in a radio broadcast. She was the guest of Women's Reserve representatives at a dinner last night at the American Woman's Association headquarters in the Hotel Barclay.

Included in her party were Lieut. Louise K. Wilde, Lieut. (j. g.) Hazel Markel, Ensign Nona Baldwin, Ensign Ann Lauman and Lieut. (j. g.) Grace Dimelow, assistant personnel officer of the Third Naval District.

This morning she will attend a special Wave religious service at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church at Fifty-fifth Street. In the afternoon she will be a guest at a Wave reception at the Women's Military Services Club, 451 Madison Avenue.